

NOTES ON *PROTEA* IN SOUTH AFRICA

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(*Compton Herbarium, Kirstenbosch*)

ABSTRACT

Protea minor (Phill.) Compton is synonymous with *Protea longifolia* Andr. and the species previously referred to in literature as *P. minor*, being left without a name, is described here *de novo* as *Protea pudens* Rourke. New combinations, *Protea aurea* (Burm.f.) Rourke, and *Protea aurea* (Burm.f.) Rourke spp. *potbergensis* (Rourke) Rourke, are made.

UITTREKSEL

AANTEKENINGE OOR *PROTEA* IN SUID-AFRIKA

Protea minor (Phill.) Compton is sinoniem met *Protea longifolia* Andr. en die soort wat voorheen in die literatuur as *P. minor* bekend was is dus sonder 'n naam en word hier *de novo* as *Protea pudens* Rourke beskryf. Nuwe kombinasies, *Protea aurea* (Burm.f.) Rourke en *Protea aurea* (Burm.f.) Rourke spp. *potbergensis* (Rourke) Rourke word gemaak.

1. *The identity of Protea minor* (Phill.) Compton

When Compton (1944) described *Protea minor* he raised *Protea longifolia* Andr. var. *minor* Phill. in Fl. Cap. 5: 575 (1912) to specific rank. The designated type of *P. longifolia* Andr. var. *minor* Phill. (*Bolus* 7860 in BOL) is a small form of *P. longifolia* Andr. However, the nine additional specimens cited by Compton, as well as his published illustration of *P. minor*, all clearly refer to another species. *P. minor* has always been interpreted in terms of Compton's illustration and the nine additional cited specimens, but never by reference to the type of the name (*Bolus* 7860). Vogts (1966) drew attention to this regrettable anomaly and correctly suggested that separate status for the taxa involved would prove necessary. Thus *P. minor* (Phill.) Compton must be placed in synonymy under *P. longifolia* Andr. Consequently, the species previously known as *P. minor* Compton is left without a name and is therefore described here *de novo*.

***Protea pudens* Rourke, sp. nov.;** *P. longifoliae* Andr. affinis, sed differt habitu procumbentibus, caulibus serpentibus, foliis secundis linearibus vel perangustis linearibus—spatulatis, 2–5 mm latis, 60–140 mm longis, inflorescentiis pusillus, 50–80 mm longus, stylis 30–45 mm longis, et bracteis roseis.

A sprawling procumbent shrub up to 1 m in diam., to 400 mm in height with a single main stem producing suberect to prostrate branches, often trailing along

ground. *Stems* 3–5 mm in diam., densely and cinereously puberulous initially, later glabrous. *Leaves* linear to very narrowly linear-spathulate, 60–140 mm long, 2–5 mm wide, length variable on same shoot, glabrous but margins occasionally ciliate; secund to subsecund, subfalciform to straight. *Inflorescence* campanulate, 50–80 mm long, 30–60 mm wide. *Involucral receptacle* conic-depressed, 10–20 mm wide, 5–10 mm high. *Involucral bracts* 4–5 seriate, outer series broadly ovate—obtuse, 6–10 mm wide, 6–10 mm long, glabrous but margins ciliate; inner series ovate-oblong, acute to narrowly oblong acute to lanceolate, usually glabrous but innermost series occasionally minutely sericeous. *Perianth* straight, 40–60 mm long, densely villous except for tube region; tube 5–8 mm long, glabrous, quadrangular, claws very densely villous, the inner lips of the perianth claws also densely villous, indumentum white; the three adaxial perianth limbs 5–8 mm long prolonged into 10–18 mm long, densely plumed awns, white proximally but with purple/black indumentum distally, the median adaxial awn markedly shorter than 2 lateral awns. *Anthers* 3, fertile; the free abaxial perianth limb subulate, densely villous with white indumentum, anther reduced to a staminode. *Style* 30–45 mm long, straight to very slightly adaxially arcuate, swollen, ancipitous and puberulous proximally, tapering, becoming terete and glabrous distally. *Pollen presenter* 5–7 mm long, slender, curved, prominently geniculate at junction with style, apex capitellate. *Ovary* obconic, 5 mm long, covered with 20 mm long, straight, tawny trichomes. *Hypogynous scales* narrowly ovate, 1.5 mm long.

Type Material: Between Heuning Rug and Mierkraal, Bredasdorp, 1/8/1973, J. P. Rourke 1393 (NBG, holotype; STE, PRE, BOL, K, MO, S, isotypes).

Protea pudens is distinguished from related species by its procumbent growth habit with trailing stems bearing linear to very narrowly linear-spathulate leaves, 2–5 mm wide, 60–140 mm long, secundly arranged, the deep pink involucral bracts and short styles, 30–45 mm long.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

CAPE PROVINCE—3419 (Caledon): The Poort, 8 miles on the road from Bredasdorp to Elim (-DB), April, *L. Bolus* 20571 (BOL); sandy edges of vle between Bredasdorp and Elim, Sept., *Leighton* 21139 (BOL, K); Mierkraal, Sept., *Jordaan* 1128 (STE); between Heuning Rug and Mierkraal, Aug., *Rourke* 1393 (NBG, STE); hills about Elim, July, *Guthrie* 3865 (NBG); flats 5 miles west of Mierkraal, April, *Oliver* s.n. (NBG 66822); near Springfield, July, *Lord de Saumarez* s.n. (NBG 82738); between Heuning Rug and Mierkraal, Sept., *Rourke* 1220 (NBG); Bredasdorp district, Sept. 1932, *Valpy* s.n. (SAM 50432); Bredasdorp Poort, Sept., *Compton* 4786 (NBG); Bredasdorp div., July 1895, *H. Bolus* s.n. (BOL 20029); midway between Kersgat and Pietercillieskloof, Aug., *Rourke* 1392 (NBG); *Note:* this collection is possibly a hybrid with *P. longifolia* Andr.

Dubious Locality: Kleinmond, *L. G. Gray* s.n. (NBG 1547/29)

2. *Protea aurea* (Burm.f.) Rourke, the correct name for a species previously known as *P. longiflora* Lam.

In an earlier note (Rourke, 1973) it was suggested that *Leucadendron aureum* Burm.f. be rejected under Article 70 of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, as the name was based on two discordant elements belonging to two different genera. However, it is apparently possible to select one of these elements as a satisfactory type. *Leucadendron aureum* Burm.f. is thus the earliest legitimate name applied to the species previously known as *Protea longiflora* Lam. Accordingly, the combinations *Protea aurea* (Burm.f.) Rourke and *Protea aurea* (Burm.f.) Rourke, ssp. *potbergensis* (Rourke) Rourke, are now made.

***Protea aurea* (Burm.f.) Rourke, comb. nov.**

Leucadendron aureum Burm.f., Prodr. Fl. Cap.: 4 (1768)—pro parte;—basionym. Type: Boerhaave, Ind. Alt. Plant. t. 199 (1720) as to flowering branch labelled A, B, C, D, E, F, I and K (lectotype);—excluding cone and fruits labelled G, H, L and M.

Protea longiflora Lam., Tabl. Encycl. 1: 234 (1792); Phill. & Stapf. in Fl. Cap. 5: 577 (1912); Rourke in Flower. Pl. Afr. 43: t. 1704 (1976). Type: Cape of Good Hope, without collector, in herb. Lamark (P.—LA!).

***Protea aurea* (Burm.f.) Rourke ssp. *potbergensis* (Rourke) Rourke, comb. nov.**

Protea longiflora Lam. ssp. *potbergensis* Rourke in Jl S. Afr. Bot. 44 (4): 378 (1978) Type: Potberg, Rourke 273 (NBG holo.!, PRE, BOL, MO, K, S, iso.).

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